

{July 22, 2007} — Media, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) spent the evening of July 21st visiting with constituents at the Glenolden Seniors Summer Barbeque at Knowles Park. Organized by Anne Krajewski of the Glenolden Borough Parks and Recreation Department, this event provided the congressman another opportunity to meet with his constituents and discuss their concerns and his work on their behalf in the House of Representatives.

“Events like this that bring together members of our senior’s community are very important to me. Our district and our nation need their wisdom and experience. As a wise saying goes, ‘the older I get, the smarter my father and mother get’. I get a sense of history and perspective from every senior’s event I attend. I believe accountability and accessibility to the families of our district are the keys to being an effective Representative. Instead of asking people to come to my office in Washington, DC to meet with me, I try to spend as much time as I can coming to them to hear their concerns and get their feedback on what we are doing in Congress to help them.”

During his visit to the event the Congressman discussed his work benefiting seniors. Earlier this year he supported legislation that saves a vital housing program for seniors. The bill temporarily waives the cap on federally insured reverse mortgages, which enable homeowners to tap the equity in their house. A reverse mortgage is a unique loan that enables senior homeowners to stay in their homes and remain financially independent by converting part of the equity without having to sell the home, give up title or take on a new monthly mortgage payment. Additionally, the Congressman cosponsored and voted for legislation to require the government to negotiate for lower drug prices for American seniors and people with disabilities in the Medicare program. The Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 will help seniors get better prices on prescription medications under Medicare. The provision in the current Medicare Rx Drug law which explicitly forbids the Department of Health and Human Services from conducting such cost-reducing negotiations will be repealed. The Democratic bill will require—not just authorizes—the Secretary for Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers. And he is also a cosponsor of the Elder Justice Act, a piece of legislation that would create the Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommendations on elder neglect, provide organizations and states with ombudsmen to address abuse and neglect in nursing homes, and provide older Americans with the same protections as victims of domestic abuse.

Moreover, Congressman Sestak supported the Congressional budget which included a reserve fund to reform and improve Medicare for beneficiaries and protect access to care. The proposed changes included improving the prescription drug benefits and creating a more sustainable system for paying physicians. Reserve funds provide a special mechanism to help

high-priority policy initiatives clear budget process hurdles.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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